

Senate Bill No. 1689

CHAPTER 208

An act to add Section 12020.1 to the Penal Code, relating to prohibited weapons.

[Approved by Governor August 12, 2002. Filed with
Secretary of State August 13, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1689, Margett. Criminal law: prohibited weapons.

Existing law prohibits the manufacture, importation, sale, giving, lending, and possession of specified weapons and related items, including metal knuckles. Violation of these provisions is a crime.

This bill would prohibit the manufacture, importation, and sale of hard plastic knuckles. Violation of this provision would be a misdemeanor.

By expanding the scope of an existing crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 12020.1 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

12020.1. Any person in this state who commercially manufactures or causes to be commercially manufactured, or who knowingly imports into the state for commercial sale, keeps for commercial sale, or offers or exposes for commercial sale, any hard plastic knuckles is guilty of a misdemeanor. As used in this section, "hard plastic knuckles" means any device or instrument made wholly or partially of plastic that is not a metal knuckle as defined in paragraph (7) of subdivision (c) of Section 12020, that is worn for purposes of offense or defense in or on the hand, and that either protects the wearer's hand while striking a blow or increases the force of impact from the blow or injury to the individual receiving the blow. The plastic contained in the device may help support the hand or fist, provide a shield to protect it, or consist of projections or studs that would contact the individual receiving a blow.

SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

